

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 SAJ-01

RSC-01 /041 W

----- 123524

R 251526Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5895

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16826

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, GW

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF NUNN AMENDMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 229776, (B) BONN 16515

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 24 CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

WEYAND

BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON THE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN DOD'S PLANNING FOR CARRYING OUT
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT.

CURRENT THINKING IS TO INCREASE U.S. COMBAT STRENGTH IN
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC BY ONE BRIGADE IN FY 75 AND
ANOTHER IN FY 76. BRIGADES WOULD BE ROTATED FROM THEIR
HOME BASES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR SIX-MONTH PERIODS;
NO DEPENDENTS WOULD ACCOMPANY EXCEPT FOR THE HEAD-
QUARTERS COMPANIES. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT
CERTAIN PRESENTLY STATIONED UNITS WILL ALSO BE PLACED ON
A ROTATIONAL TOUR WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS IN
EUROPE THEREBY BEING REDUCED. NO DECISIONS AS TO WHERE
THE TWO NEW BRIGADES WILL PERMANENTLY BE STATIONED HAVE
AS YET BEEN MADE. END SUMMARY

1. THE ARMY IS PLANNING ON ABSORBING ITS SHARE OF THE
"TAIL-TO-TEETH" REQUIREMENT OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT BY

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INCREASING ITS COMBAT STRENGTH IN EUROPE BY TWO

BRIGADES (ONE IN FY 75 AND ONE IN FY 76), BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WEAPONS ASSIGNED TO EXISTING COMBAT UNITS BY 2,200 MEN (ALL IN FY 75), AND BY CHANGING THREE OF ITS ENGINEERING BATTALIONS FROM A CONSTRUCTION TO A COMBAT FUNCTION THEREBY ADDING ANOTHER 3,000 COMBAT SPACES. IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT THE ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST NEW BRIGADE IN THE FORM OF ONE OF ITS BATTALIONS WILL ARRIVE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN MARCH OF 1975. THE REST OF THE BRIGADE IS DUE BEFORE JULY 1, 1975. TEMPORARILY THE BRIGADE WILL BE HOUSED AT GRAFENWOEHR, WILDFLECKEN AND HOHENFELS. THREE POSSIBILITIES FOR ITS PERMANENT QUARTERS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. THEY ARE WILDFLECKEN, KAISERSLAUTERN AND WIESBADEN AIR BASE. THUS FAR THE AIR FORCE HAS NOT AGREED TO RELEASE WIESBADEN ALTHOUGH GENERAL WEYAND INTENDS TO TAKE THE SUBJECT UP WITH THE AIR FORCE AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS TOLD THE SERVICES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SUPPORT UNITS IN EUROPE BY 20,000 MEN BY THE END OF FY 77. THE NUNN AMENDMENT REQUIRES THE REDUCTION OF 18,000 SUPPORT TROOPS BY THE END OF FY 76. GENERAL WEYAND SAYS THIS CAN BEST BE DONE BY ASSIGNING AT LEAST TWO NEW COMBAT BRIGADES TO EUROPE.

3. THE PROBLEM OF WHERE TO PUT THE SECOND OF THESE BRIGADES IS A THORNY ONE. GENERAL DAVISON HAD SUGGESTED AUGSBURG BUT GENERAL WEYAND HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE IDEA WAS A NON-STARTER BECAUSE IT WAS TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE LIKELY SCENE OF COMBAT. GRAFENWOEHR AND WILDFLECKEN MIGHT BE USED TEMPORARILY AND THE LATTER EVEN PERMANENTLY FOR PART OR EVEN ALL OF ONE OF THE BRIGADES. A POSSIBILITY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE SECOND BRIGADE WOULD BE TO EXTEND CENTAG'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY FURTHER TO THE NORTH, MOVE THE GERMAN UNITS NOW IN THIS AREA TO THE NORTH AND PLACE THE U.S. BRIGADE IN THE VACATED GERMAN FACILITIES. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO PLACE THE BRIGADE AT BREMERHAVEN; HOWEVER, THE WATER TABLE IS VERY HIGH THERE AND SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE TO SEE THAT THE BRIGADE'S TANKS WERE NOT BOGGED

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DOWN. STILL ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS TO ASSIGN THE BRIGADE TO NORTHAG AND PUT IT UNDER THE BRITISH GENERAL TUZO. HOWEVER, GENERAL TUZO STATES THAT HE HAS NO SUITABLE FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5896

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

4. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND AND GENERAL WEYAND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL GERMAN FEARS--WHICH THE AMBASSADOR FEELS TO BE JUSTIFIED--THAT ANY ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. COMBAT TROOPS TO NORTHAG COULD RESULT IN THE DUTCH, BELGIANS, OR OTHER ALLIES USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO WITHDRAW SOME OF THEIR OWN TROOPS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. GENERAL WEYAND AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE COMPLETELY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS INsofar AS MEETING CONGRESSIONAL WISHES ARE CONCERNED.

5. WHEN ASKED WHEN THE DECISION AS TO WHERE THE SECOND BRIGADE WILL BE STATIONED MUST BE TAKEN, GENERAL WEYAND SAID THAT IT MUST BE DONE BY NEXT MARCH. THIS WOULD ALLOW THE DECISION TO BE GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS AS PART OF DOD'S FORCE POSTURE PRESENTATION. ALL APPLICABLE AGREEMENTS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE SIGNED BY THEN, BUT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY ALL CONCERNED MUST BE REACHED BY THAT DATE.

6. WHEN ASKED WHAT EFFECT THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE TWO NEW BRIGADES MIGHT HAVE ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, GENERAL WEYAND REPLIED, "VERY LITTLE." THIS IS BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF U.S. TROOPS STATIONED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC STAYS CONSTANT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MIGHT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO CHANGE ITS FIRST CUT PROPOSAL

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TO INCLUDE MORE COMBAT AND FEWER SUPPORT TROOPS. THIS LED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF THE RATIO BETWEEN COMBAT AND SUPPORT TROOPS IN EUROPE. GENERAL WEYAND SAID GENERAL DAVISON WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAWDOWN OF SUPPORT TROOPS THAN HE WAS. PERSONALLY, GENERAL WEYAND WAS MORE READY TO TAKE THE RISK INHERENT IN INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COMBAT-READY TROOPS AT THE EXPENSE OF SUPPORT TROOPS. WHILE WE DEGRADE OUR ABILITY TO FIGHT A LONG WAR, WE ALSO RAISE THE THRESHOLD OF NUCLEAR RESPONSE. NEVERTHELESS, GENERAL WEYAND SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF GENERAL DAVISON'S CONCERN.

7. GENERAL WEYAND SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS, WORDS OF CAUTION OR OTHER ADVICE WHICH AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND MIGHT BE WILLING TO GIVE HIM REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT PEOPLE LIKE MINISTER OF DEFENSE LEBER ARE DISPOSED TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE INsofar AS PROVIDING FACILITIES AND THE LIKE ARE CONCERNED. AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE INCREASE IN U.S. COMBAT FORCES IS NOT USED AS AN EXCUSE BY ANY OF OUR ALLIES TO REDUCE THEIR OWN FORCES. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT GENERAL DAVISON HAD BEEN VERY GOOD ABOUT KEEPING HIM INFORMED ABOUT CURRENT THINKING REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT. HE ASKED THAT THIS CONTINUE. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING GERMAN COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC MATTERS ONCE THE CRUNCH CAME.
HILLENBRAND

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